

Application No. 10/065,446
Docket No. DP-307128
Amendment dated June 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 14-20 were withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement, claim 7 was objected to, claims 1-3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §103, claims 9-13 were allowed, and claims 4-6 (which depend from claim 1) were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended the specification and claims as set forth above. More particularly:

The specification has been amended at paragraphs [0011] and [0013] and in the Abstract to address clerical errors.

The specification has been amended at paragraphs [0014] to update the status of U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 10/065,447 and 10/065,448 (Attorney Docket Nos. DP-306616 and DP-307129).

Independent claims 1 has been amended to require that the capping chip (14) is secured to the chip carrier (12) with a solder joint (38), and that the solder joint (38) has a lower melting temperature than the solder connections (32) that connect the device chip (16) to the chip carrier (12). Support for this amendment can be found in claim 9 as originally filed.

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Dependent claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim 1, pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claim 4 recites allowable subject matter. As such, claim 4 and its dependent claims 5 and 6 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent claim 7 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to address an issue of clarity.

Applicants believe that the above amendments do not present new matter. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13 are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Independent claims 1 and its dependent claims 3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023765 to Sugiura et al. (Sugiura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,384,473 to Peterson et al. (Peterson), and claims 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,603,183 to Hoffman in view of Peterson. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the claims as amended and the following comments.

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In setting forth reasons for the allowance of claim 9, the Examiner cited the limitation that the solder ring (38) used to secure the capping chip (14) to the chip carrier (12) has a lower melting temperature than the first solder connections (32) that connect the device chip (16) to the chip carrier (12). As noted above, Applicants amended claim 1 now requires this limitation. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record, and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §103(a).


Closing

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all issues outstanding from the Office Action have been addressed, and that the claims define patentable novelty over all the references, alone or in combination, of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that this patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

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Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Domenica N.S. Hartman
Reg. No. 32,701

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Hartman & Hartman, P.C.
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
TEL.: (219) 462-4999
FAX: (219) 464-1166